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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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In the Matters of

Replacement of Part 90 by Part 88 to  
Revise the Private Land Mobile Radio  
Services and Modify the Policies  
Governing Them

PR Docket No. 92-235

GTE's COMMENTS

GTE Service Corporation, on behalf of its  
domestic, affiliated, telephone, equipment and  
service companies.

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## SUMMARY

1. GTE urges the FCC to move without delay to adopt the proposals of the *Notice and the Consensus Plan* with the modifications, infra.
2. Specifically, the proposed employment of narrowband technology will meet the overall goal, which is assuring the most efficient use of the spectrum.
3. The FCC should proceed with exclusive channel assignments, but should monitor the process to guard against abuse.
4. All *bona fide* applicants -- including wireline carriers -- should be included in the lottery for new innovative shared use licenses.
5. Applicants under Part 88 should be required to furnish some additional information that will promote spectrum efficiency, but the FCC should be careful not to impose overly detailed and burdensome requirements.
6. Considering the increased need for Part 88 licensees to coordinate their operations, many of the proven Part 22 engineering concepts should serve as a model for coordination in Part 88.

Ref.

representing the collective interests of a number of PLMR licensees and equipment manufacturers, filed a Motion for Extension of Time<sup>3</sup> for the purpose of developing an industry "Consensus Plan." On April 28, 1993, LMCC filed its Consensus Plan in the instant proceeding.

GTE has a direct interest in the instant proceeding. GTE holds five hundred twenty seven PLMR licenses in the Telephone Maintenance Radio Service (487

than offset the costs that such changes will impose on the existing community of users. As an existing PLMR licensee with significant investment in current PLMR equipment, GTE understands that the proposed rule changes will be costly. But GTE also has a first-hand understanding of the shortages of PLMR frequencies that currently exist.

**In summary:** In view of the unprecedented growth in demand for radio communications -- a trend that shows no sign of abating -- GTE urges the FCC to move without delay to adopt the proposals of the *Notice* and the Consensus Plan with only a few minor adjustments, discussed *infra*, which are needed to realize the Commission's objectives.

**2. Specifically, the proposed employment of narrowband technology will meet the overall goal, which is assuring the most efficient use of the spectrum.**

The FCC describes PLMR as "one of the largest, most important areas regulated by the Commission," and goes on to state that "without significant regulatory changes in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of PLMR communications will likely deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy." Given present technology, the proposal to narrow the frequency bands granted to individual licensees should result in more available assignments and more efficient use of the spectrum.

At the same time, it is conceivable that newer, more efficient technologies may actually require larger bandwidth channels. GTE suggests the Commission should allow enough flexibility in the rules so that when other technologies develop that offer equivalent or greater efficiencies, licensees will not be limited by the Commission's rules to using a dated technology. The overall goal should be assuring the most efficient use of the spectrum.

**In summary:** GTE supports the proposed employment of narrowband technology.

**3. The Commission should proceed with exclusive channel assignments but should monitor the process for possible abuse.**

GTE joins the majority of commenters that favor creation of a channel exclusivity option. As the *Notice* states (at paragraph 11): "Exclusivity makes technical flexibility more viable." GTE believes that the Commission's proposed Exclusive Use Overlay ("EUO") plan presents a workable approach to the majority of situations that will be encountered.

While the EUO plan appears relatively straightforward, GTE cautions the Commission to closely monitor this process for potential abuses, especially during its initial implementation. As we have seen in the case of lottery assignments, there may be many creative approaches that would seek to "game" the process to permit speculation and warehousing of spectrum.

**In summary:** The FCC should proceed with exclusive channel assignments, but should monitor the process to guard against abuse.

**4. The Commission should allow all *bona fide* applicants -- including wireline carriers -- to be included in the lottery for new innovative shared use licenses.**

In Appendix A of the *Notice*, the Commission proposes granting five licenses in each of seven regional markets for a new type of shared use radio operation. In discussing which licensees would be eligible for inclusion in the proposed lottery, Appendix A at page 17 says: "We leave the issue of whether wireline telephone common carriers should be eligible for innovative shared use licensees to a future proceeding covering wireless eligibility in all bands, including the 220-222 MHz, 851-866 MHz and 935-940 MHz bands."

GTE asked the Commission to reconsider excluding wireline carriers in the assignment of licenses in the 220-222 MHz band.<sup>4</sup> GTE believes the Commission's unfortunate decision in that case might be remedied by proceeding swiftly with this



1. **Some additional information should be required of applicants under Part 88, though the FCC should be careful not to impose overly detailed and burdensome requirements.**

There is always a cost associated with the gathering, reporting, and cataloging of data. Mindful of this additional cost, GTE recommends the FCC consider reviewing the type and amount of data to be requested of licensees under the new Part 88 rules.

In some cases, it is cost-justified to ask for more data. For example, under Part 90, licensees are not required to identify the type of antenna that will be used. Not having this type of information makes coordination among existing users extremely difficult. Since in all likelihood, this information is known at the time of filing, by judiciously increasing the required reporting information, the overall coordination among users can be made more efficient, and will more than offset the incremental costs of providing an additional piece of information. On the other hand, if this review is not implemented at the time of Part 88 creation, incomplete records will be likely to result. Indeed, should the Commission later find certain missing data is critical, the cost of going back and reacquiring the data might be prohibitively expensive.

At the same time, GTE urges the Commission not to adopt overly detailed and burdensome requirements that will not be of significant help in the process. Each additional data requirement should be examined to make certain it directly promotes

arrangement can be complemented by additional engineering considerations (as routinely used in Common Carrier mobile services) to ensure non-interfering operation.

**In summary:** Considering the increased need for Part 88 licensees to coordinate their operations, many of the proven Part 22 engineering concepts should serve as a model for coordination in Part 88.


### CONCLUSION

With minor modifications, the proposals advanced by the Commission and the LMCC will result in a significant increase in PLMR efficiency. The creation of a new Part 88 will benefit current and future PLMR users and is in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

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domestic, affiliated, telephone, equipment and  
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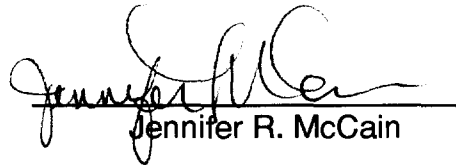
  
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May 28, 1993

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## Certificate of Service

I, Jennifer R. McCain, hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "GTE's Comments" have been mailed by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, on the 28th day of May, 1993 to all parties of record.



Jennifer R. McCain